

AUG 20 1993

Confirmation of Verbal Authorization for the Pacific Vegetable Oil International, Inc., Site, Boonton Twp, Morris Co., New Jersey

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I. PURPOSE

This memorandum is written to confirm the verbal approval given by Richard C. Salkie, Associate Director for Removal and Emergency Preparedness Programs of ERRD on August 14, 1993, for Dilshad Perera to use his \$50,000 On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) authority. The \$50,000 project ceiling is to initiate site security and stabilization. From the project ceiling, \$40,000 is for mitigation contracting.

The site came to the attention of the environmental regulatory agencies as a result of a local resident calling the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy (NJDEPE) hotline on August 13, 1993. The purpose of the call was to notify authorities that their son had broken into the site with some friends, and as a result was burned by one of the chemicals. EPA immediately responded after receiving a call from the NJDEPE. Upon evaluation of the conditions at the site, the OSC deemed it necessary to take immediate action. The on-site NJDEPE official verbally requested that EPA conduct a removal action under the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Reauthorization Act (SARA).

II. BACKGROUND

A. Site Description

Pacific Vegetable Oil International, Inc., (PVO) was an active manufacturer of vegetable oils and petroleum based lubricants until they filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 1985. PVO purchased the property from the Drew Chemical Corporation in 1971. The facility consists of 5 separate buildings and has been under a NJDEPE Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act (ECRA) Order since they ceased operation.

At an indeterminate time, PVO completely ceased operations at the site, including the removal of site security. The site is located on two different sides of the street and a chainlink fence surrounds part of the site. The local authorities stated that the site has a history of break-ins, and vandalism was evident during our site walkthrough inspection. The facility is located in an industrial area.

B. Quantities and Types of Known Hazardous Materials

There were miscellaneous chemicals such as acids, inorganic salts, 35% solution of hydrogen peroxide, two 5-gallon pails of zinc dust, arsenic standards and sodium cyanide, which were found in a laboratory area. Approximately, 400 fifty-five gallon drums were found with an unknown product. A full 3,000 gallon tanker truck was found, which contains unknown waste and byproducts. There were also six vertical tanks ranging in size from 10-25,000 gallons with their contents unknown.

C. Threat of Public Exposure

The primary threat posed by the abandoned drums, and other containers, is that of exposure through direct human contact, fire, explosion and vapor exposure, caused by a reaction of the hazardous substances on site.

IV. PROPOSED ACTIONS

A. Proposed Actions

EPA has established 24-hr site security. Immediate actions will be to secure and/or stabilize the site as it becomes necessary.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Conditions at the PVO Co. site meet the criteria for a removal action consistent with 40 CFR 300.415(b) of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan.